

ROTHBURY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE
Year ending December 31st, 1913.



Rothbury :

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ROTHBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1913.

ROTHBURY,

March 27th, 1914.

COLONEL ORDE AND GENTLEMEN.

Allow me to present to your Board this, my eighteenth Annual Report, such being that for the year ended December 31st, 1913.

Your District, exclusive of water, covers 27 miles by 16, it comprises 166,959 acres, inhabited by 4,606 persons, occupying 1041 houses, according to the Census of 1911. This gives an average of 4·4 persons to each house. The main industry is Agricultural. The Ritton White House Quarry whinstone and limestone works have been quite busy, but could not keep up sufficient supply of men. The Freestone Quarry at Blaxter has also been busy. There are also Landsale Collieries. At the Chirm, troubles have occurred. The new Lee Pit is going on well; Longframlington and Elsdon Pits also work steadily. There is not yet any indication of increase of work, and young people are still emigrating.

The rateable value has fallen from £83,418 of last year, to £76,929 this, the nett assessable value to £50,741. The District rate levied for the year ending September 30th, was £3277. being at a rate of 1s. 3d. in the £, against 1s. 5d. of the year before. The Poor rate, being that for Guardians

and County, was at 2s. 6½d. in the £, and produced £6410, and one penny in the £ produced £211 for the District, but £237 for the entire Union, the Urban part being about one eighth. Your indebtedness stands at:—the Cemetery, £446; Longframlington Water, £23; Workhouse, about £2846. The Out-door Relief, amounted this year to £396, against £348 of 1912.

During the year, the number of Births registered in the District was 83; there was one born outside the same of parents belonging to it, thus giving the corrected number as 84. There were none born of strangers in the district. Last year there was 100. Of these, 41 were males and 43 females. Your average was 110. Taking the population at 4620, this gives a birth rate of only 18·2, against your average of 20·4; while that for England and Wales (Rural) is 22·2. The migration of the younger part of the community is still telling. The births were registered—29 during the first quarter, 25 the second, 24 the third, and 11 the last. Alnham and Brinkburn with 15 were double the average. All the other parts were below their average—Alwinton being most marked, from 18 to 11; Whittingham only 9 instead of 16; these two are essentially agricultural. There was only one illegitimate birth, and this survived.

The total number of deaths registered in the district was 46, equal to a rate of only 10·0 per 1,000. Of these, 2 did not belong to the district, while 12 who did died away from it elsewhere; this causes 10 to be added on, making 56 who belonged to the district in all, which is still at the rate of only 12·1, and is very satisfactory; that for England and Wales being 13·1. The previous 10 years' average was 12·1. The death rate to be quite correct, requires standardising, and this is done by multiplying the corrected rate of 12·1 by ·8913, which gives 10·8; that for England and Wales being 12·1. In reference to the 12 of your own population who died elsewhere, 5 died in Medical Institutions in New-

castle ; 5 died in the County Lunatic Asylum at Morpeth ; 1 died in the Cottage Hospital at Rothbury ; and 1 drowned herself near Alnwick. The Registrar General now notifies these corrections, thus ensuring much greater accuracy. Of these 56 residents, 28 were males and 28 females, and the months in which the deaths took place were as follows—January 4, February 2, March 11, April 7, May 6, June 1, July 3, August 7, September 5, October 4, November 2, December 4. As regards the visitors into the district, one died of Nephritis, the other of Heart disease ; both were males.

There being 84 births registered during the year and 56 deaths, it follows that the difference of 28 was the number of persons naturally added to the population. This is at a rate of only 6·06, a good deal below your previous average and about the same as for England and Wales, of 12·0.

Of the 84 children born, it appears that 7 died before attaining one year of age, hence in infancy, this is at a rate of 83·33 per 1000 born, a little above your average of 78·5, while it is better than that for England and Wales, of 96·0. The chief causes of the deaths were:—Convulsions, 1 ; Pneumonia, 2 ; Enteritis, 1 ; Other Causes, 3. None of these were illegitimate.

The age periods at which these deaths occurred were—under one year, 7 ; two to five, 1 ; five and under fifteen, 2 ; fifteen to twenty five, 4 ; twenty-five and under forty-five, 7 ; forty-five to sixty-five, 14 ; sixty-five and upwards, 21. Of these latter, 5 died between sixty-five and seventy ; 8 others between seventy and eighty ; 4 more from eighty to ninety, and 2 above that, one being ninety-six and the other ninety-four.

The following table records the population and the number of deaths, together with the death rate computed upon each 1000 of its population in each of the ecclesiastical Parishes (or parts of them) contained in the District :

	Pop.	Deaths.	Rate.		Pop.	Deaths.	Rate.
Rothbury (Rural)	1200	11	9.2	Alnham & Brinkburn	350	3	8.5
Alwinton - -	810	13	16.0	Cambo and Elsdon -	610	5	8.2
Whittingham -	755	10	13.2	Longhorsley and			
Long Framlington	435	3	7.0	Netherwitton	460	4	9.0

As the death rate for the whole district is 12.1, Alwinton with a rate of 16.0, and Alnham with 20.0, stand the heaviest. Alwinton was lowest last year; this year Long Framlington is lowest, whilst last year it was heaviest with a rate of 21.0.

Under the head of the chief Zymotic or Epidemic diseases, there were not any deaths registered, hence the rate is nil. Your average is 0.6, while that for England and Wales is about 0.74.

Phthisis (Tubercular disease of the Lungs) caused 5 deaths, being at a rate of 1.1 per 1,000, against last year's of 0.65, and your average of 0.65. Of other Tubercular affections, a female aged 23 years succumbed to the general form.

Cancer caused 6 deaths, against 59 last year, and above the average of 3.5 for 35 preceding years. Although frequently existing in the same family, yet it is not always so traceable, hence instructions are now being sent to disinfect rooms afterwards.

Heart Disease caused 5 deaths, being below the average of 10. **Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy**, and other diseases of the chest caused 8 deaths in all, this is at a rate of 1.7 against your previous average of 1.5. The Bronchitis all occurred in the aged; the Pneumonia, 3; two in infants, and one in a child aged two; these occurred close beside each other, Influenza probably being the foundation of the illness. There were two others over 65 years of age. **Enteritis** caused the death of one infant; **Nephritis** caused 1; **Suicide**, 1 (in a young woman whilst mentally depressed), and outside the district, by drowning near Alnwick. **Apoplexy** caused 8, all being over 60 years of age. Other diseases were answerable for 19.

No deaths occurred in the Workhouse belonging to your district, but one died in the Cottage Hospital of Apoplexy. There were 41 patients belonging to the two districts (the Union) treated in this Institution during the year, and this was the only death there.

The Coroner held an inquest on the above mentioned case of drowning, also 3 formal enquiries.

The Notification of Births Act is not adopted. Shortly all cases of Ophthalmic in new born infants will have to be notified by the doctor or midwife attending.

Under the **Infectious Diseases Notification Act**, there were 21 cases returned, to these have now to be added, Tubercular cases, viz :—5 in the lungs (Phthisis), and 5 in other parts of the body. Of the first 21, Scarlet Fever caused 16 ; Diphtheria, 2 ; Enteric, 1, and Erysipelas 2.

Scarlet Fever. The 16 cases is equal to a rate of 3·5 per 1,000 of the population, a slight increase upon the 3·04 of last year, while for England and Wales, the rate is 3·57, against 2·98 of the previous year. The greatest prevalence during the year was in order in the months of—(1) November ; (2) October ; (3) December ; (4) September.

The Rural part of the County rate was 4·10. These cases occurred in the different districts as follows :—Alwinton. 1 ; Whittingham, 3 ; Long Framlington, 1 ; Elsdon. 7 ; Alnham, 2 ; Netherwitton, 2.

The first 5 cases were a continuation of the Whittingham outbreak at the end of last year. Doubtless mild cases escaped detection and prolonged the outbreak. They occurred during January, February, and March. Visits were made, instructions given and sent, with disinfectant ; notice to the Schoolmaster, and unsanitary conditions reported.

It was conveyed to the Alwinton district, Harbottle, by a visitor. Here all care was taken and it did not spread. To Long Framlington it was also taken by a visitor from Nēwbigger; all care was taken, the place disinfected, and no further cases occurred. To Alnham it was carried doubtless from the neighbouring Whittingham outbreak, two children were affected. Isolation care and disinfectants used, and it ended here. Unsanitary conditions were pointed out and promised to be rectified. At Elsdon, it was notified on August 6th, this was doubtless imported from Otterburn by a child who came home to Elsdon from there, and was ill. Later, four in this family took it, and some time later on, another of the family who was, and had been always away, took it at Cramlington, and was sent home to Elsdon. It was contracted by another family (2 cases) in the village, and possibly more mild cases. Visits were made, instructions given and sent, with disinfectant. It was necessary to keep the school closed here. In one case sufficient care was not being taken, and a warning had to be given. On December 15th, it broke out in the Netherwitton district, at Nunnykirk West Lodge. Here two were affected, it was possibly conveyed from the Morpeth district. Slight unsanitary condition has been remedied. All care was used and no extension took place here. All rooms were disinfected afterwards. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria occurred in two cases, at Mount Hooley (Whittingham), and the Wag Tail (Rothbury). It occurred in an Infant at Mount Hooley in April. With the mother he was away on a visit and took ill just after return. On inspecting I found a shed adjoining dwelling house where an animal was kept and caused a smell. This has been discontinued. Isolation and disinfectants with care and antitoxine were used, and the child recovered. At the Wagtail, it occurred in a girl aged 7 years, at the end of November. On visiting there were no unsanitary conditions.

all care and isolation were being taken, disinfectants used. Antitoxine had been administered. There were no further cases. As this was one of the milk supplies to Rothbury, of course this had to be discontinued till the patient was well, when all was disinfected. Your rate per 1,000 for Diphtheria is thus: 0·43 against last years' 1·24, while that for England and Wales is 1·39; for the County, 1·73, and in order each month—(1) November; (2) December; (3) October; (4) September.

The **Enteric Fever** case occurred in the son of the Schoolmaster at Yetlington (Whittingham), aged 15 years, and began in August. He had been a good deal from home, and doubtless then contracted it. It was a very obscure case. Isolation, disinfectants' and all care were used and no further cases occurred. It caused the keeping of the schools closed for a short time. He recovered, and all was disinfected. Your attack rate was thus: 0·21 per 1,000, while that for England and Wales was 0·22.

Erysipelas was notified in two cases, one of the face, the other of the arm following an injury. Both were adults and recovered. The rate for England and Wales is 0·63.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified in 5 cases. One of these did not belong to the district, but came from Morpeth, being a barber there. He was 35 years of age, and came to Thropton on November 6th, having been ill 10 weeks before. On visiting, all was in sanitary condition, and instructions given. He did not recover, but later on this year he died, all being disinfected. It was in the family. Of your own people, one was a female, aged 29, at Rothley Middle Shield, she went to Barrasford Sanatorium for about 6 weeks, the temperature kept up and she returned worse, and died 5 months afterwards, all being disinfected. Visits were made, and instructions and disinfectant given. Unsanitary conditions existed, very damp walls: these were plastered and pointed: also window made

to open. It existed in this family previously. A young girl died in the Alwinton district with a very short illness. It was in her family also. All being disinfected. A young man aged 20, at Alwinton, contracted it, following a bad attack of Pleuro Pneumonia at Clennell. He went to Netherton and Burradon in the same district, where he died on December 31st. Visits were made and instructions, etc. given. All was disinfected after. It was not known of in this family, neither had he been exposed to it. Two persons while inmates of the Morpeth Asylum developed Phthisis and died of it there; a male aged 18 belonged to Alwinton, and a female aged 31 belonged to Whittingham. From the Local Government Returns, it appears that there were notified on the average of 3.03 cases per 1,000 of the inhabitants in 1912, while in 1913 the rate was 2.64, the number of cases being 96,553.

Tuberculosis in other parts of the body was notified in 5 cases also. The last one was a visitor from Newcastle, aged 19, the bladder being affected, he was removed to the infirmary, and died there. All was disinfected. Two of the others were operated on, and recovered. A young woman aged 23 was affected generally, and died at Thrunton, all being disinfected after, it was probably in the family. Unsanitary conditions here are being taken in hand. A young woman suffered from it in the knee at Rothley Middle Shield, where her sister died of Phthisis at the same period. This patient is slowly recovering. Unsanitary conditions were improved. Visits were made to the 4, and all care urged, especially ventilation, and disinfectants were needed. In England and Wales, the rate of these was 1.14, and number 38,190.

The **Isolation Hospital** was used for a child belonging to the Urban district who suffered from Scarlet Fever. She was a visitor. This stopped the spread of it, and all was disinfected. At length a satisfactory resident

Caretaker has been procured for the building. The smoking of the chimney is still complained of.

Bacterial Examinations were conducted in Newcastle, on behalf of the County Council. From your district, 14 specimens were forwarded for diagnosis. Six of these proved to be positive, and 8 negative. There were 11 for Phthisis (Tuberculosis of the Lungs), of which five were positive (2 being for one man), and 6 were negative. There were 3 for Diphtheria, 1 being positive, and 2 negative.

Arrangements have been made by the County Council to examine all animals suspected of Tuberculosis. So far I have been notified of 12 such. Of these, the Veterinary Inspectors notify 6 to be Tubercular, and 6 not so. 5 were killed and 1 died.

The Weekly Return of cases of Infectious disease, and of Tubercular affections (Phthisis, etc.) notified to me in the district have been practically regularly returned by me to the Local Government Board and the County Council.

The Notification of Births Act is not adopted here.

Under the **Factory and Workshops Act**. There were 6 Factories and 25 Workshops on the Register, being a total of 31. They consisted of—Blacksmiths, 6; Tailors, 4; Shoemakers, 4; Joiners, 6; Dressmakers, 4; Cycle Repairer, 1, being 5 more on the list than last year. We have made 45 inspections. A shoemaker died, but was succeeded by his sons; the same of an oatmeal business. There was no privy attached to the blacksmiths' at the Peels, the owner's attention being called to it. The unsanitary wooden privy at Thropton still exists. There are no underground bake-houses and no outworkers.

Under the **Dairy and Cowsheds Act** all the milk is sold in the district soon after the milking, hence there are no real Dairies. There are 3 farms where cows are kept purely for supplying milk to purchasers. These exist at Whitton, the Wagtail, and Snitter Lane; amongst them 25 cows are kept, and they supply 123 customers mostly living in the Rothbury Urban area, the milk being conveyed in cans by horse and cart. All utensils, etc., are kept clean, the byres are well paved, drained, and sufficient air space, except at the Wagtail, where it is a little deficient, but the door is mostly open and the animals are outside in good weather in all cases. They have good water supply, and the byres are lime-washed properly. There should be at least 600 cubic feet (or 50 superficial feet) for each cow. Most of the farmers sell a little to their workers practically as a favour. At Long Framlington, Elliott and Anderson deal a little further than this. Elliott's is all in order, but Anderson's cow byre needs a good deal of improvement structurally. I have made 9 visits, and the Inspector others. If suspected of Tuberculosis as mentioned above, cows are tested by Veterinary Inspectors for the County Council, and if they are so, have to be destroyed, and compensation in suitable cases is given.

The **Slaughter Houses**. There are two—one at Elsdon, the other at Whittingham. Both are lined out and kept clean. Six visits were made by myself and the Inspector. No Tubercular or unsound meat was seen or reported to us. There is no special Meat Inspector. Suspected animals are now inspected as mentioned above.

The **Schools** (Elementary). There are 17 in the district, all have been visited by me and your Inspector. 25 visits being made. Their average attendance was 600. At Windyhaugh the water should be protected and piped to the School. At Thropton, the open part of ash-midden should be further covered in. It was necessary to close the

Schools owing to the prevalence of Measles at Rothbury and Long Framlington. Whooping Cough also being present here, also at the Lee. Elsdon had to be twice closed for Scarlet Fever; and Harbottle and Holystone each for Chicken Pox and Influenza. Todley Moor owing to Enteric Fever in the Schoolmaster's family.

The Water Supplies. Public ones are Thropton (clear of debt), Longframlington with a debt of £23, and Harbottle, now finally leased to the Council on a 30 years' lease, thus settling a long discussed question. Leave has been given to extend the Thropton supply to the Gallowfield. At Longframlington, a big leakage at the main tank has been rectified; much less waste has been going on here lately, the washers being kept in better order. At Wingates, the Windmill has been replaced by a Petrol engine, some alterations are being made. The Cartington to Trewitt supplies is raised by ram, as are Brinkburn and Warton, all being good water and sufficient. Other good private supplies are at Callaly, Elsdon, Hepple, Great Tosson, The Ryles, Whittingham, Alnham. New supplies have been laid to Biddlestone Farm House and Cottages, to the Lordenshaws, Windyhaugh, Netherton Mill, and G. Proudlock's, at Longframlington.

At Alwinton, we made a special survey, in summer they are distinctly short of supply, but this was increased owing to a divergence of the burn into a pond. The Agents' attention was called to this; it might be piped from the stream higher up. Supplies are much needed at the Forest Burn Gate, Gusset, Hesley Hirst, Sunnyside.

Sewerage. Public ones are in good order. At WINGATES, new systems have been laid throughout with purifying tanks, sanitary pipes and gullies. WINGATES MOOR, new sink and drains, with spouting. RITTON WHITE

HOUSE, drains and sanitary sinks completely relaid, all into septic tanks. FARNHAM, a W.C. At NEW TOWN, good sink in house delivering over outside sanitary sink and drain; also a good W.C. and ventilated soil pipe. RYE HILL, new sanitary sink and drain to house and steading, also alteration of privy. DYKE NOOK, sink and drainage at pig sty. PYKE, drainage much improved. WISKER SHIELD, the same. CARRICK ONSTEAD properly drained. WAINFORD RIGG, the same, and pig sty. WHITELEES, sanitary sink and drain. BOWERSHIELD, the same, water supply protected, and spouting. ELSDON GATE, sanitary sink, drain and spouting. LANE HOUSE, the same. WEST TODHOLES, sanitary sink and drain. ELSDON ELM TREE COTTAGE, sanitary sink and drain. LOW LANDSHOTT, sanitary sink to house & drain, same to the Onstead. LONGFRAMLINGTON, Wardle's house, sanitary sink and drain, same to Primrose Cottage. with much repairs and alterations. HEALEY, a W.C. and sanitary drain. WARD'S HILL, sanitary sink and drain, and other good work. UNTHANK, sewerage taken out of roadside gutter away in field in sanitary pipes. RYLE MILL, sanitary drain extended. WHITTINGHAM, sanitary sink and drain for A. Pringle. LOW ALWINTON, sanitary sink & drain for cottage, with spouting. BIDDLESTON HALL, an entirely new excellent system of drainage laid down and finished. NETHERTON MILL, sanitary sink, drain & spouting. BYGATE HALL, good sink in scullery, delivering over outside gully and sanitary drain, all well extended. WINDYHAUGH, proper sanitary drainage extended. CARSHOPE, proper sink and drain from the cow byre door. RIDLEES, sink and scullery and over new outside sanitary sink and drain. QUICKENING COTE, the same, with spouting & repairs to roof. DYKE HEAD, drainage finished, and cemented yard. TROWS, proper sanitary sinks and drains provided, also to cow byre and stables, the floors being cemented, and all spouted, earth closet, new windows, and floor ventilated. WHITEBURN SHANK, sanitary sink and drain. with spouting and earth closet.

KIDLAND, spouting, sink and drain. MILKHOPE, sink and drainage with spouting, and earth closet. At ELSDON, complaint was made regarding open ditch. On visiting, we advised turning the sewer away at manhole and placing septic chamber, but the cost was deemed too heavy. These have practically mostly been attended to, owing to notices served under the House Inspection Act.

In connection with the **Housing of the Working Classes**: of the 1103 houses in the district inspected by us, I find that 987 are stated, as at rated below £16, and hence of cottage class. There are 613 houses possessing 3 rooms or less, and 769 (or 156 more) having 4 or less, and these may all be called cottages for the working classes. Under the standard of the Census for 1911, houses having an average of more than two persons to each room, are termed overcrowded. In your district there are 103 such. They are distributed in the districts as follows:—

Rothbury (Rural) ...	28	Whittingham ...	8	Alnham and Brinkburn } 11
Alwinton ...	20	Long Framlington	8	
Cambo 2 and Elsdon 10	12	Long Horsley 2 and Netherwitton	14-16	

In the case of Netherwitton, 13 of the 14 are at the Ritton White House Quarry Works with wood houses, and lodgers. There were four instances of overcrowding in one-room houses; 56 cases in two-roomed houses. These being occupied by 330 persons, giving an average of 3 per room. For three-roomed houses, there were 36 instances, occupied by 285 persons, or an average of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per room. There were 7 cases of over 3 rooms to the house and over crowded to the extent of 3 per room. If only every house had three rooms at least, as it ought surely to have, there would not be much overcrowding in evidence.

Further, under the **House Inspection Act**, as mentioned in last year's report, we completed the inspection of the 1103 (1041 in the Census) houses in the district, scat-

tered over 166,959 acres, the population being 4610 (according to the 1911 Census), giving 4·2 as the average per house. We found there were 24 houses in such unsanitary condition as to be unfit for habitation. With the approval of your Board, we served notices upon the owners to remove these conditions. Considerable time was given, and in July of last year we advised the Board to issue closing orders. The Board, however, decided to give the owners a twelve months' final notice to get all in order before the expiration of that period. If not done, then to decide upon the closing orders. I am glad to say that five have complied already.

The following table shows the districts and number of unsanitary houses, &c.:—

	Houses		Closing Orders.	Remedied without Closing Orders.	General Character of Defects.
	Inspected	Unfit to Occupy			
Rothbury	324	4	0	1	No privy or ash midden. No sanitary sink or drain. Damp Walls. Defective Spouting. Cow Byres and Stables often join house and are badly paved, undrained, and not spouted.
Alwinton	211	12	0	2	
Whittingham	166	0	0	0	
Long Framlington ...	124	2	0	1	
Alnham and Brinkburn	69	2	0	0	
Cambo and Elsdon ...	131	3	0	1	
Long Horsely and Netherwitton ...	78	1	0	0	
TOTALS	1103	24	0	5	

Besides those unfit to occupy, there are 29 cases where the houses are quite unsanitary, but not so bad as above. They existed in Rothbury (Rural) 8, of which 2 have been rectified; Alwinton, 11, of which 3 have been attended to; Whittingham. 1; Alnham and Brinkburn. 4; Elsdon. 3:

Long Framlington, 1 ; Cambo, 1. Thus 5 have been rectified. There were 57 houses, all below £16 in value, that were not occupied ; of these, 7 were clearly too unsanitary. Of the others, fully 40 were able to be occupied, if they had been needed. These existed chiefly in Rothbury, 12 ; Alwinton, 20 ; Long Framlington, 6 ; Netherwitton, 4 ; Whittingham, 4 ; Elsdon, 2 ; and two others. In my report for 1912, a very full and extensive aggregate statement is made of the results attending this inspection.

It is very largely owing to the notices on the House Inspection, that the sanitary improvements mentioned under the headings of Water Supply and Sewerage, etc. have been provided, as also those now following—

At WINGATES, 6 houses have been remodelled, fire places placed in every room, and proper windows ; good sanitary sinks and drains with septic tanks. Ash privies provided, and water standards. FONTBURN WATER WORKS, the 2 brick cottages being very damp have been cemented over, and special bituminous coating, much money and time etc. have been spent with decided improvement. HEPPLE VILLAGE, all the open ash middens covered over, the same at Hepple Woodside and Midgy Hall. RYE HILL, out offices remodelled and drainage. LONG FRAMLINGTON, 3 of Dixon's terrace have had ash privies provided and spouting. Walby's and the next, spouting, and former new flooring, ventilated, improved out offices, and much good work. Much has been done at the late J. Wardle's. HEALEY FARM, W.C. to farm house and improved out offices to cottage. PAUPERHAUGH, remodelled privy and ash midden at farm house and blacksmiths. The same at Moral Hirst. COLDSIDE and WARD'S HILL, the same ; LONGHAUGH also, as well at the HAW FARM, FOREST BURN GATE, LEE LANE and LEE SIDINGS. WHITTINGHAM LANE, new dairy and pantry. ROTHILL, repairs to cottage wall and downspout. RYLE MILL, new privy and ash midden covered in. ESLINGTON.

cemented wall and floor of cottage. WHITTINGHAM, the stable at J. Ewart's removed from house end to new site, properly constructed privy and ash midden provided. THRUNTON, pointed and cemented damp walls, and providing for new sanitary work. ALWINTON EAST FARM COTTAGE, cemented out; Bland's, a new pantry. NETHERTON, the open ash middens of Miss Davison and J. Davison properly covered in. At Puncherton, Rookland, Barrow Mill and Netherton Buildings, much has been done to rectify the damp walls, clearly with some success. BYGATE HALL, the roof repaired. WINDYHAUGH, re-roofed the cow byre. CARSHOPE, repaired roof, cemented back wall and gable, and provided earth closet. RIDLEES, re-roofed part of, repaired ceilings and cemented west wall for dampness. USWAYFORD, repaired roof and provided earth closet. HAIGH, provided earth closet; ROWHOPE, the same, and attended to the defective windows. HUDSPETH, shifted the pig sty from the house end, erected new ones at back, cemented and drained, well constructed. SOUTH RIDING, provided with sanitary sink and drain, privy and ash midden, and new floor.

Special District Inspections were made by me at Netherton, Longframlington, Ritton White House, and the Blaxter Quarry Cottages. Details of the results are embodied in this report.

The scavengering is attended to by the farmers and their workpeople, the villages mostly depend upon this also, such being carted for field manure. There is little tendency to use moveable bins for ash pits, but a more frequent emptying of the privy middens is very desirable. It is never necessary to give more than verbal notices to get them cleaned out, but they may have to wait until such times as farmers can empty them.

Complaints were made from three persons at Long Framlington, doubtless a dead rat occasioned one; drainage diverted cured another; water spouts turned into Bell's downspout as alleged excessively, is a matter for Law Courts probably. Castle Hill is in the agent's hands. Rye Hill, we cannot find the cause of the smell. Alwinton water is under observation. All complaints have been reasonably attended to by us.

Sanitary attention is still needed for Thrunton Field House, Eslington Low Hill (wood privy); Hall's w.c. soil pipe at Long Framlington.

Your Inspector systematically goes over portions of the district reporting to the Board. He accompanies me in most of the Special Inspections, and has given much time and attention to the above mentioned in my report. A Table embodying the results of his year's work will be found enclosed.

Thanks are due to the Owners and Agents for much valuable assistance and co-operation.

Your Obedient Servant.

F. BARROW,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS

In the Rothbury (Rural) District.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett		Number.	Rate.	Of Non-residents registered in the District.	Of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	*Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
†1908	4830	100		20·8	64	13·2	3		11	110·0	61	12·6
1909	4780	96		20·1	59	12·3	5		4	41·6	54	11·8
1910	4750	79		16·6	59	12·4	4		5	63·3	55	11·5
1911	4606	107		23·2	43	9·3	0	6	7	65·4	49	10·6
1912	4610	99	100	21·7	50	10·8	6	5	11	110·0	49	10·6
1913	4620	83	84	18·2	46	10·0	2	12	7	83·3	56	12·1

* Rates in columns 4, 8, and 12 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.
Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)... 166,959
Total Population at all ages (1913) ... 4,606
Number of inhabited houses ... 1,041
Average number of persons per house ... 4·4

† Men leaving the Waterworks.

TABLE OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the year 1913 in the Rothbury (Rural) District.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District.						Total Cases notified in each Locality.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					Rothbury (Rural part of Parish).	Alwinton.	Whittingham.	Longframlington.	Alnham and Brinkburn.	Cambo and Elsdon.	Long Horsley and Netherwitton.
		1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65							
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	2	1	1			1	1		1				1
Erysipelas	2						1						
Scarlet fever	16		10	5	1			1	3	1	2	7	2
Enteric fever	1			1									
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5		1	1	2	1	1	2				2	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	5			3	1	1	2	1	1			1	
Totals	31	1	12	10	5	3	5	4	6	1	2	10	3
													0

Isolation Hospital near Whetton, in Rural area of Rothbury, provided by Joint Rural and Urban Authorities

Total available beds—12.

Number of diseases that can concurrently be treated—2 to 3.

Sanatoria, &c.—None.

TABLE OF CAUSES OF, AND AGES, AT DEATH, during
Year 1913, in Rothbury (Rural) District.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined ages.								Deaths in
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Whooping Cough									
Influenza	1						1		
Erysipelas									
Phthisis, Pulmonary Tuber- culosis	5			1	2	2			
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1				1				
Cancer, malignant disease	6					1	3	2	
Organic Heart Disease ...	5						3	2	
Bronchitis	3							3	
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	5	2	1					2	
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	1	1							
Appendicitis and Typhlitis									
Nephritis & Bright's disease	1			1					
Congenital Debility & Mal- formation, incl. Premature Birth									
Suicide	1				1				
Other Defined Diseases ...	18	4				4	4	6	
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	1							1	
(b) Apoplexy	8						3	5	
All causes	56	7	1	2	4	7	14	21	

TABLE OF INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1913.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	Total Under 4 Weeks.	4 Weeks & under 3 months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes (Certified)	2	1	3	2		1	1	7
„ (Uncertified)	0		0					0
Whooping-Cough								
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)								
Convulsions	1		1					1
Pneumonia (all forms)				1		1		2
Bronchitis								
Enteritis				1				1
Premature Birth								
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus								
Other Causes	1	1	2				1	3
Totals ...	2	1	3	2		1	1	7

District of Rothbury (Rural).

Population estimated to middle of 1911, 4,606.

Births in the year { legitimate, 82.
illegitimate, 1.

Deaths { legitimate, 7.
illegitimate, 0.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 7.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1913.

	HOUSING.										WATER SUPPLY.		DRAINAGE.			SANITARY CONVENIENCES.			WORK EFFECTED.																					
	Structural Defects.										Nuisances.	Overcrowding.	Unfit for Human Habitation.	Defective Spouting.	Dampness.	Insufficient.	Unsatisfactory.	Foul.	Untrapped or Dilapidated.	Insufficient.	Structural Defects.	Insufficient.	Foul.	Dairies and Cowsheds.	Slaughter Houses.	Common Lodging Houses.	Offensive Trades.	Bake Houses.	Other Workshops	Nuisances from keeping of Animals.	Paving of Yards.	Other Nuisances.	Totals.	Privy Ashpits Roofed.	Ditto Abolished.	W.C.'s Substituted.	Ash Closets Substituted.	Houses Disinfected.	Seizures of Unsound Food.	
Number of Inspections made.	500 House Inspections during year.																																							
Number of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-laws found.	10	38	0	6	35	90	25	16	20	35	36	20	30	0	0	0	0	0	14	5	1	1	4	39	22	2	2	0	14	0										
Number of Informal Notices by Inspector		Full Ash-middens						369 Informal Notices sent to Owners or Agent						1	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	8	365																
Number of Defects or Contraventions remedied after Informal Notice.	10	38	0	6	19	14	10	14	15	28	30	20	28	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	4	22	2	2	0	11	0											
Number of Statutory Notices served by Local Authority.																																								
Number of Defects or Contraventions remedied after Statutory Notice.																																								

During the Year ending December 30th, 1913, I have made over 500 Inspections in all throughout my district, and the figures opposite to "Defects or Contraventions of Bye-laws Found" are the several defects come across in my Inspections Notices for which has been sent to Owner or Agent calling their attention to these and asking for same to be remedied. The figures opposite to "Defects or Contraventions Remedied" are the several Sanitary Improvements carried out during the year; in almost every instance I am pleased to say my notices having been attended to. The Medical Officer in his Annual Report going more fully the several Estate Properties where these Improvements have been made.

EDWIN J. CLARKSON.